

BACKYARD BREEDING CHECKLIST

In Standing Water

- * Don't allow any outside water to stand for more than four days.
- * Cover rainwater barrels with mesh or screen.
- * Drill holes in the bottom of any unused containers so water can't collect.
- * Remove or drain any place where standing water can collect. (See backyard map.)
- * Keep decorative fountains operational or drain the water.
- * Change water in animal watering dishes often.

Swimming or wading pools

- * Remove any water that collects on pool covers.
- * Make sure the pool's pump is circulating water.
- * Turn over wading pools when not in use.
- * Don't leave out children's toys, cups, etc.

In your eaves and drains

- * Clear leaves and twigs from eaves, troughs, storm and roof gutters.
- * Make sure drainage ditches are not clogged.
- * Check flat roofs for any standing water.

Around your yard and lawn

- * Fill in any low depression areas in lawns.
- * Check knots in trees.
- * Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets and remove air conditioner drain hoses frequently.
- * Remove areas such as dense shrubbery where mosquitoes breed and rest.
- * Let your neighbors know about potential mosquito breeding grounds on their property.

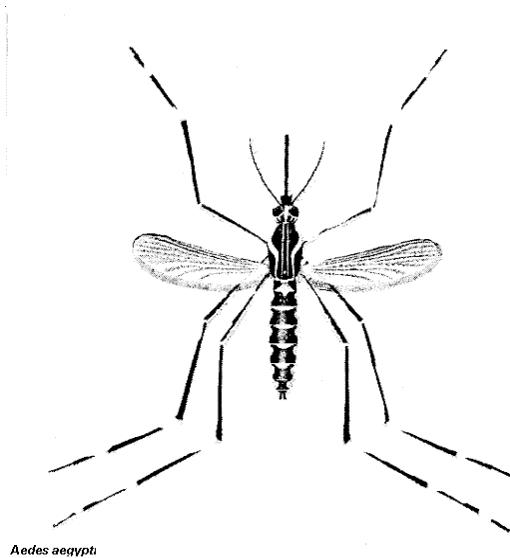
Try to keep mosquitoes out of the house

- * Make certain that door and window screens fit tightly and do not have holes.
- * If there are no screens, keep doors and windows closed from evening to dawn.

Log on to www.maricopa.gov/envsvc
for more information.

Aedes aegypti

Ridding your Property of a New Species of Mosquito



Aedes aegypti



Maricopa County
Environmental Services

Valley residents have noticed recently that there seems to be more mosquitos in the Valley than ever before. This is true. A new species of mosquito has entered Maricopa County. The *Aedes aegypti* species is unique, in that, it breeds in our backyards.

Around the world, *Aedes aegypti* is known as an urban mosquito that feeds almost exclusively on humans and breeds successfully in yards such as those found in Maricopa County.

Aedes aegypti bite at any time of day but prefer dusk and dawn. These pesky mosquitos enjoy feasting on ankles, wrists, and areas of thin skin.

The mosquito is black with white banding, and is relatively small. Their flight range is estimated at 100yds (in a lifetime). The eggs of *Aedes aegypti* last for long periods of time once they are laid on backyard clutter, ditches, vases etc., and will hatch when water is reintroduced to that site. During the hot Summer months, eggs may hatch and reach adulthood in as little as 4-5 days.

While *Aedes aegypti* is a biter, and a nuisance mosquito, it **is not** considered to be a vector of endemic diseases in Arizona.

It is biochemically capable of transmitting the West Nile Virus, but it is much less capable than the native, night-time biting mosquitos. Because the *Aedes aegypti* almost never feeds on birds, it almost never has a chance to acquire the virus. For those *Aedes aegypti* which do happen to bite an infective bird, they usually do not live long enough to transmit the virus.

Due to the biology & behavior of this mosquito, pesticide applications such as fogging yield only marginal results at best. The best way of combatting the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is to eliminate backyard breeding. This can be done by reducing backyard clutter, trimming overgrown foliage, and draining standing water.

Cleaning potential breeding sites will eliminate *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos from reproducing in your backyards. Breeding sources can include tightly clustered shoots beneath overgrown shrubbery, bird baths, vases, soda cans, unkept swimming pools and others. How many of these breeding sites can be found in your backyard?

